

# Missouri

## FFA Today

September/October 2001

**M**ums the word with Tom Wippler and Rachel Burkhart - the sun-loving garden variety that is. Both Tom, 15, and Rachel, 15, are new FFA members with a promising S.A.E. project. In a partnership with the Troy FFA chapter, they are growing Chrysanthemums to be sold later this fall at the Troy-Buchanan High School.

For this project, the FFA buys the students the supplies to raise the mums, and Tom and Rachel plant, grow, and sell the aged plants. The chapter will get half of the profits that the mums bring when sold, with Tom and Rachel splitting the other half.

And so far, things are going well for the team. "(The mums) have grown four to five inches in two weeks," explains Tom, "They're growing pretty good."

### Promising Partnership

By  
Kaci Ballou



Rachel Burkhart (l) and Tom Wippler (r)

For both Tom and Rachel, this is an opportunity for them to learn. "This was something to do during the summer, to gain experience," states Tom. Rachel is also enjoying the mums, stating that she decided to do this because she, "thought it would be fun and would make a good S.A.E. project."

Tom and Rachel will continue this mum project into early fall, checking on them early in the morning, once or twice per week, managing their care, and repotting the plants as they grow.

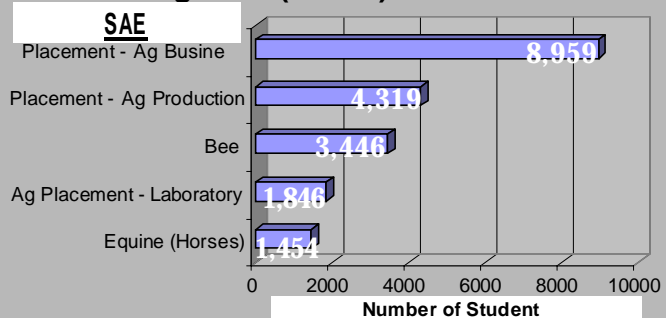
both students are active students in their FFA chapter. Tom was on the Poultry team last year, maintains his half-acre garden at home from which

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### Top 5 - Supervised Agriculture Experiences Programs (SAE's) In Missouri



Based upon 2000 SAE data.

September/October 2001

## Jabber from Jamie... Try it, you might like it.

I'm sure most of you can relate to sitting at the dinner table and seeing a foreign looking glob of what is supposed a healthy vegetable, part of a balanced meal, on your plate. You work your way around the glob eating the food that you know is good only to have your mom or dad say, "Try it. You'll never know if you like it if you don't try it."

This situation reminds me of the many opportunities we have in the FFA. They may look scary or foreign at first, but if we jump in and try them, it might just be the experience of a lifetime.

During contest season my sophomore year, my ag teacher asked me to join the horse evaluation team. I had always enjoyed being around horses since my family had raised them all of my life, but I really didn't want to judge horses. I didn't think it I was good enough. I had no idea what I was doing; when I was younger I had just picked out the ones I liked by color. I was so afraid to judge with that team because I would be with senior girls who were determined to make it to state, and I wasn't about to be the one that would hold them back. I doubted myself and let fear take control.

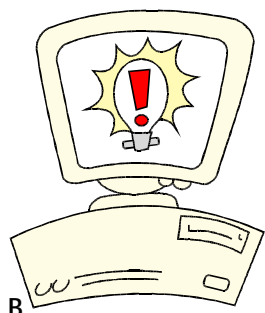
I reluctantly agreed to join the team after much encouragement from my advisor. During the first few days of contest practice I felt like a little kid at the dinner table, but this time it was my advisor saying, "Don't worry. Just go for it." I started getting in to the contest, and our team had a



Jamie Lile  
State President

blast. I learned a lot and even won a couple of awards. Our team may have not made it to state that year, but it was worth the experience. The next year I joined a new horse team and had the chance to compete at the Missouri State FFA Convention with two of my best friends. It was the experience of a lifetime. I almost missed that opportunity by being afraid to try something new and unfamiliar.

FFA members don't be afraid to try something new, whether it is a vegetable on your dinner plate, a new sport, Career Development Event, public speaking contest, or maybe even an international travel experience. I know that you will all do a great job, just give it a try. I believe in you!



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## Mo Claims 2 Star Finalists

Sixteen finalists have been named in the National FFA Organization's Star Award Program and Missouri boasts two of those winners.

Deanna Thies, Glasgow FFA, is a finalist for Star in Agribusiness while Nathan Lockard, Clopton FFA, is a finalist for Star in Agricultural Placement.

Some people seem to have a natural affinity for the soil, and Deanna is certainly one of them. A 19-year-old ag education major at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Deanna markets produce through several farmer's markets and employs a greenhouse she constructed as part of her SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) program.

At 21 years of age, Nathan, is becoming an expert on herbs. As purchasing agent for American Botanicals, a family-owned business, he is involved with the buying, processing and packaging of items like ginseng, purpurea, golden seal and more as part of his SAE.

Each star finalist receives \$1,000 from the National FFA Foundation and earns the opportunity to participate in an international experience tour to Costa Rica. One winner for each award will be selected at the 74th National FFA Convention, Oct. 24-27 in Louisville, Ky. Winners will receive an additional \$1,000.

## Growing a Tradition

By  
Kaci Ballou

This past April, Skyline FFA's Nursery and Landscaping Team placed first at state convention in Columbia, Missouri, qualifying them to attend nationals in Louisville, Kentucky, in October. But, this won't be the first time the team's members have made a run at national competition.



The team's members: Matt Benedict, Nathan Maddux and Sam Percival will all be high school seniors this year after three years of successes together. They placed third in the state in the Knowledge contest their freshman year and, as sophomores, placed first in the state in last year's Agronomy contest, attending nationals for the trial contest. Now they have done it again, placing first at state, and are getting ready to again attend nationals for the Nursery and Landscaping contest. They each also placed in the top 25 as individuals, receiving gold medals.

This contest, which includes a written test, identification of trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, and ground covers, pest identification and problem solving takes a large amount of work to be ready for contests. "They started working in February," notes advisor and team coach, Charles Simpson, "They are extremely hard-working. This is a team of three great guys that mesh unbelievably well."

When looking ahead to nationals, Nathan states, "Its going to be neat, we're really going to have to work hard to have a chance."

# Mo. Dept. of Ag

## 1/3 page ad

# Promote AgriMissouri: It Pays

If your FFA Chapter is looking for a great way to raise some money and learn a little more about Missouri value-added agriculture, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has a contest just for you.

"Promoting AgriMissouri Products Pays Contest" is designed for just those purposes. And, it can help you identify some career opportunities in agriculture, as well. Through the contest, FFA chapters helping to market Missouri-made products will be awarded points for the number of Missouri companies represented, the number of Missouri products offered, the marketing technique used, and the dollar amount of sales generated from Missouri products. The top chapter will receive \$1,000 in prize money. Second place receives \$750 and third place earns \$500. In addition, \$50 will be awarded to all chapters selling \$5,000 or more of Missouri products.

Here's how the contest works...

Step 1: Provide documentation for each item sold in your fundraiser, Missouri and non-Missouri. If your chapter has submitted a brochure that lists all items used, no other information is needed. Provide total sales on Missouri products only. Other examples of documentation are copies of receipts, order forms, etc.

Step 2: This section provides your chapter the opportunity to earn more points by stressing the importance of marketing. Things to think about as you decide your marketing strategy: Why sell the items? Who is your target audience? What are your sales goals? Are you promoting Missouri agriculture?

Step 3: Bonus points will be awarded for choosing products from Missouri companies that exhibited at the 2001 Missouri State FFA Convention.

Applications for the Promoting AgriMissouri Products Pays Contest are due by January 31, 2002, and can be sent to Missouri Department of Agriculture, Market Development Division, AgriMissouri Program, P. O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

The Department of Agriculture has a number of resources available to assist your chapter in its fund-raising efforts. Visit their website at: [www.mda.state.mo.us/c2b.htm](http://www.mda.state.mo.us/c2b.htm). Or, call the AgriMissouri Program toll-free at 1-888-MO-BRAND for more information.

SMSU  
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# Why do I need a Student Portfolio?

By  
Kaci Ballou

After four years of activities in high school and another four years of college, you are getting ready to graduate, and are on your way to an interview for an unbelievable job. What will you give the interviewer to show him or her your experiences and education from high school and college? Your high school senior scrapbook and family photo album will not do. You need a portfolio.

A portfolio is an organized way of presenting activities, techniques learned, and a variety of interests during high school and college. When in high school, this portfolio will help in filling out award and scholarship forms and when applying for jobs that are related to your area of interest. Many items that are saved are related to the your future major or career. Other items may also show the variety of your interests. The key

to starting a good portfolio, according to Dr. W. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture at Southwest Missouri State University, "is keeping good notes as one goes along. Keep track of participation at the high school level, and the attendance of conferences. Put the information in a central folder, then organize."

But what should you be saving? Offices in FFA, placings in contests, and involvement in sports or other extracurricular activities are just a few examples of what should be written down to be kept track of for the portfolio. Also, school projects, papers, and speeches that relate to the student's future career should be kept, along with career-related work from internships and jobs.

**Continued on Page F**

## MFA

### 1/2 page ad



Photos from activities and of the S.A.E. project can also be effective. "Everything you are doing is important, keep track of it," says Dr. Bill McKinley, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at Central Missouri State University.

Another idea for keeping record of activities or lessons that relate to the student's interests, says Dr. Marvin Hoskey, professor of Agricultural Education at Northwest Missouri State University, is to write a "reflection sheet." These sheets can be kept as a log sheet of the event, or can be used as a way to write down any experiences or observations from the activity. These writings would be effective for any event from a field trip to an inspiring class lesson.

With a variety of projects and items saved, organization of the portfolio should now be fairly easy. First, according to Dr. Wes Mueller, department chair of agriculture at Southeast Missouri State University, the portfolio should be started out with a highlight page. This should be one page of what you, the author, would like the reader to see at a glance. This first page will help the reader understand what you are trying to show in the portfolio without having to look through the entire book.

Next, start inserting the items into the portfolio, writing a short explanation for each item. The explanation is necessary for showing the importance or impact of an object from a conference or field trip, or for giving the guidelines or the usage of a past assignment that may be used in the portfolio. Any clear plastic, drop-in slipcovers will work for containing the items, and will fit into a three ring binder for neat organization.

A portfolio is an organized way of presenting activities, techniques learned, and a variety of interests during high school and college.

These pages may be organized in any logical way, depending on what you would like the reader to focus

on. "Look at what you have done, and analyze how you want to put it together," says Dana

Brown, Director of Career Services, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri - Columbia. "Focus on what you want to do with (the portfolio) when you are done."

If you happen to be graduating from college soon, your portfolio will need

to be updated, with more attention shown to what was gained from your college education. But don't throw away your high school portfolio - it is important. Dr. Bill McKinley recommends referencing high school activities in the college portfolio, but only the most interchangeable activities, such as offices in state organizations, leadership activities, and information on your S.A.E. project. "Show that you've built on high school skills and activities."

When taking the portfolio to a job interview, resort through the portfolio, eliminating any unnecessary items, and put focus on what will look impressive to the interviewer. With focus on your career choice, examples of your diversity of interests, and neat organization, your portfolio is ready to help you get that job or award you've been wanting.

## Continued from Page A **Promising Partnership**

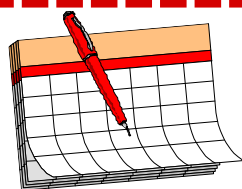
he has exhibited vegetables at the Missouri State Fair, and also works for his uncle hauling hay and doing farm work.

Rachel attends many leadership conferences, and helps with the Troy FFA greenhouse sale. She also has a horse at home as part of her S . A . E . project, on which she does barrel racing and pole bending at fun shows.

During this project, along with class time and other experiences, Rachel says she has gained a lot from the FFA program, just in her first year. "(FFA) has helped me a lot in record keeping, learning how to weld, about animals, planting times for plants, and many other things."



Rachel Burkhardt (l) and Tom Wippler (r) work together in their SAE project planting mums which will later be sold as part of a chapter fundraiser



**FFA**

## Calendar

**Oct**

- 15 FFA Dues and Rosters DUE
- 16 NWMSU Fall Contest - Maryville
- 18 State Grassland Contest - Columbia vicinity
- 24-28 National FFA Convention - Louisville, Ky.
- 26-Nov. 4 American Royal, Kansas City, Mo.

**Nov**

- 1 BOAC Grant Apps. DUE
- 1 American Royal Leadership Seminar - Kansas City
- 7 SMSU Agriculture Banquet - Springfield
- 13 NE District Speaking Contests - South Shelby
- 13 SC District Speaking Contests - Rolla
- 14 NW District Speaking Contests - Cameron
- 14 Central District Speaking Contests - CMSU, Warrensburg
- 15 SW District Speaking Contests - SMSU, Spfld.
- 15 SE District Speaking Contests - Dexter
- 30 Bear Country Ag Fest - SMSU, Springfield

**Dec**

- 1 United Sportsmen League Wildlife Cons. Grant DUE
- 1 MU Scholarship Apps. DUE
- 2 Mo Farm Bureau/Sheep Speaking Finals - Tan-Tar-A
- 13-15 Mo Cattlemen's/Cattewomen Convention - Tan-Tar-A
- 16-18 Governor's Conference on Agriculture - Tan-Tar -A



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## Chapter Chatter

### Northwest District - Cameron

FFA members in Cameron are busy planning their annual Watermelon Bust - an orientation and get acquainted program for new FFA members and their parents. The chapter expects some 60 new members to join this fall.

### Central District - Harrisonville

Members of the Harrisonville FFA Chapter are busy gearing up for their annual Cass County basket fundraiser project. The school's sales and service class coordinates the project, which features items made in the Cass County area. Baskets are marketed around Christmas time and sales last year topped \$5,000.

### South Central District - Rolla

Rolla FFA members will be working on an outdoor classroom for the junior high school this fall. Members are also getting ready for the state Grassland Evaluation Contest and will work on a number of shop projects for the community.

### Northeast District - Centralia

Centralia FFA members will help with a school-wide canned food drive during Homecoming week in October. Last year's event collected some 3,600 pounds of food for the Central Missouri Food Bank.

### Southeast District - Delta

FFA members in Delta will be on hand at the SEMO District Fair in Cape Girardeau in September. They'll be busy working with local pork producers in serving pork burgers during the annual fair. The chapter also plans an ice cream social in September.

### Southwest District - Mountain Grove

Members of the Mountain Grove FFA Chapter can be seen along the highways this fall as they take part in the Adopt-A-Highway program. FFA'ers will also hold a Labor Auction as a fundraiser and will look forward to its alumni pie summer during the Greenhand and Chapter Farmer ceremonies.

**CMSU**  
**1/6 pg**  
**ad**

# Finding Your Place in FFA



By Ben Marshall  
State V.P., Area VI

Coming from a small agriculture town of Jamestown, Missouri, with a population 298 on one sign and 317 on the other, it was hard not to be involved in every activity in school. Like many kids in my school I played every sport I could play, and I was in every club or organization that I had time for. Since I was so involved, I found myself staying very busy at times with many different organizations. Even though I was busy I always had time for my favorite organization - the FFA.

When I was a freshman I heard someone say that you get back something good or rewarding whenever you put a lot of hard work into something. Since I heard this from an FFA member, I learned at that time that I could do whatever I wanted in the FFA and I would get rewarded in some way. You make the choice of how much effort you put into FFA and that effort will help also help determine what you get back out of the organization as well. You find as a freshman that there are many paths to follow and many doors that can be opened through the FFA. The key to this is, are you willing to go down the paths and unlock the doors to opportunity? This is my challenge to you!

In FFA there is something for everyone. I have always tried to get the point across that FFA is no longer just farming; there is a world of op-

portunity to do whatever you want. While in the FFA you will be faced with decisions such as: Do I want to be on this committee? Do I want to do this just because my friends are, or do I want to do something else? Do I want to be a chapter, area, or state officer? Do I want to do this contest team even though I don't think I know that much about the

subject?

With the start of this new school year, my challenge to each of you is for you to put 100% into the FFA. Give it your all and see the rewards you will reap.

If you find your place in the FFA then it will be with you forever and ever and you will never forget what the FFA has done for you.

Good luck this year in all you do and God Bless!

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1/2 pg  
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